



**Video Message by Mr. Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations
Meeting of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG)**

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to join you via video for this meeting of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG). I am sorry that I could not be there in person.

Congratulations to the United States for taking over as Chair of the MASG. I wish you a successful term. In these volatile times, this is a tremendous responsibility.

With conflicts raging around the world, the threats posed by explosive hazards perpetuate humanitarian crises and hinder emergency responses and effective peace operations. Mine action is needed more than ever. In the face of these global challenges, the responsibility of the United Nations and its Member States could not be greater.

The MASG serves as the only platform for the United Nations and the donor community to come together to ensure a coordinated response towards a world free from the threat of mines and other explosive hazards. I urge you to continue to use this forum to identify resource requirements and share experiences and knowledge towards solving the gravest challenges of our times.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the continued commitment of your Governments to support the mine action activities of the United Nations. Today, we need your financial assistance and political commitment more than ever: for risk education, victim assistance, survey of residential areas, and, of course, for clearance of mines, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices.

The amounts required are significant: USD 150 million in 2018 for Iraq alone. The price tag for mine action in Syria and Yemen are likely to be in the same range. Though these figures may seem significant, scary even, they are a fragment of the daily cost of war and the suffering experienced by the populations in these countries. These costs of ongoing conflict are felt around the world, including in your own societies.

So, I would like to echo the appeal of the Secretary-General to keep mine action at the top of the international agenda and to ensure that resources are allocated accordingly. You can be certain that the United Nations will be a responsible steward of your precious resources, and I reaffirm our commitment to a culture of accountability, transparency, and results-driven delivery.

I thank you again for your continued commitment as supporters, champions and friends of UN mine action.

Thank you.